

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

## Personal and Literary.

—Mrs. Motley, wife of the historian, whose death has been announced by cable, was a sister of the late Park Benjamin, and a lady of fine culture.

—The wife of Bradlaugh is an invalid; but his two daughters, Hypatia and Alice, are of remarkable beauty, and fill the post of hostess with regal grace and dignity.

—The Rev. Dr. Newman is in London, engaged in writing a book, entitled "The Thrones and Palaces of Nineveh and Babylon." He spoke recently at a meeting held in London to oppose the opium traffic between India and China.

—The Emperor William has received a present of a sculptured table, designed by the artist Oppenheim, and made out of the tree under which Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia received his death wound at the battle of Sedan.

—King Kalakaua's income is \$22,500 per annum, and he declines to receive more because of the poverty of his subjects. Taxes in Hawaii are five cents on every hundred dollars, one dollar on every house, and five for every carriage owned and run.

—Hon. Alvah Crocker, member of Congress for the Tenth District of Massachusetts, who died the other day, is a good specimen of the self-made man of New England. Beginning as a factory operative when only eight years old, he secured for himself an academic education and a prosperous business. He became a paper manufacturer, president of the Boston and Fitchburg Railroad, and filled various offices of responsibility and honor in his native State. He was elected to the Forty-second Congress to succeed Mr. William B. Washburn, and was re-elected to the present Congress, but not to the Forty-fourth. He possessed much practical ability and a fund of quaint humor, which made him very popular with his fellow-members.

## Science and Industry.

—Mr. S. W. Garman describes, in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, a new American species of serpent from Florida under the name of *Helicops allen*.

—A new tonic called Boldo has been discovered, which is claimed to have a marked action on the liver, besides being a powerful stimulant to digestion. Boldo is a tree found in Chili, growing to the height of five or six feet, with yellow blossoms and a verdant foliage. Its bark, leaves, and blossoms possess a marked aromatic odor, resembling a mixture of turpentine and camphor. The leaves contain largely an essential oil. It also contains an alkaloid, which is already called boldine.

—Parsnips contain more nitrogen than carrots, in the form of ammoniacal salts, and they also contain a double portion of fatty matter. The difference in the relative proportion of cellular fibre in both roots is very great, and the cellular fibre is very useful in the animal economy, being converted by the gastric juice into gum and sugar and applied in feeding the respiration and in the production of fat. Parsnips are more valuable than carrots for feeding milch cows and also for fattening animals. They stand frost better than any other root crop.

—A novel street-car has been put in use in San Francisco. It is built somewhat in the shape of a balloon and has ample seating capacity for fourteen persons. The car revolves on the wheels and saves the necessity of having a turn-table, and can be turned with ease, so that in case the street is blocked the driver can turn back at once on his return trip. The front is so arranged that the driver can sit down or stand at will. The expense of a conductor is saved by passengers dropping their fare in a box near the driver. The car is quite light, rides easy and cannot be overthrown.

—Prof. A. L. Bogart, of New York, exhibited his process of lighting public buildings by electricity in Cincinnati on Wednesday night. The *Enquirer* says the experiment proved surprisingly successful. After explaining the process to his audience, the professor ordered the gas turned on, and a few seconds after, by a touch upon the electrical machine, the auditorium blazed with the light of a hundred lamps, the gas-jets simultaneously lighting with a hollow boom. The spark is produced by friction, and by the new machine Mr. Bogart has been able to light at once the 1,300 gas jets of the Brooklyn Tabernacle; while by the old method not more than fifty or sixty could be ignited at a time.

## School and Church.

—The Disciples (Campbellites) propose to establish a mission in the city of Rome.

—A church at Windsor Locks, Conn., has adopted as a doctrine a mixture of Roman Catholic and Adventist beliefs.

—The Praying Women's Temperance Union of Worcester furnishes the firemen of that city with hot coffee at every fire, the aim being to forestall the demand for intoxicating beverages.

—Mr. John B. Trevor, of New York, President of the Board of Trustees of the Rochester University, made the institution a New Year's present of \$10,000. This makes his entire donations to the university \$44,000.

—The New Jersey authorities are thinking about arresting the lady managers of the church fairs where lotteries have been run during the past month. They are all liable under the State laws.

—The Iowa Bishop only pays three or four thousand dollars a year, and hence goes begging. And yet there are ministers in Iowa and all over the West, who work hard for two or three hundred a year—and that, in many instances, paid in vegetables.

—The Ohio Board of Education met at Toledo Jan. 12, and, after the discussion of the resolution to exclude from the public schools the Bible and all religious exercises and hymns, it was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 5 to 2, being a stronger expression than was anticipated.

—The folly of trying to maintain in small villages two or more churches of the evangelical faith where one or at the most

two would suffice was condemned by the English Congregational Union at Huddersfield as emphatically as by the American Congregational Council at New Haven. The English Union did not, however, propose any plan of consolidation.

## Haps and Mishaps.

—A woman named Interbetz was burned to a crisp, and her daughter badly burned, by the explosion of a kerosene lamp at Niagara Falls, on the night of the 13th.

—J. J. Ogburn, a well known merchant of Christian County, Ky., lately jumped from a train as it neared his home and was killed. He had been married but a few weeks.

—The body of an unknown man was discovered early on the morning of the 11th at Goose Island, Chicago. The head was nearly severed from the trunk, and numerous stabs had been inflicted on various parts of his body. No object for the murder was known.

—Dr. William E. Rosseter, of Bridgeport, Conn., died from the effects of inhaling ether, which he was administering to a patient four weeks ago. It produced symptoms similar to those of typhoid fever and diphtheria.

—Joseph Bybee, aged 60 years, who lived near Mt. Sterling, Ohio, left his residence rather mysteriously on Sunday, Jan. 3, and nothing was heard from him until Thursday night, when his body was found in a hollow log, with his throat cut, and a common jack-knife grasped tight in his hand.

—Mr. Jas. L. Meyers, who has a trading boat at the post of Walnut end, on the Arkansas River, says his boat was recently robbed by thirty negroes, led by four white men, all drunk, and well armed. Meyers says the outrage was perpetrated upon him because he would not buy a bale of cotton which he considered stolen.

—Frank McDonald, of Bath, N. Y., a widower, married a young lady named Nancy Jane Miller, of Campbelltown, on the 13th of December last. On the 18th of December he left his wife, and the same day was married to Mary Short of Avoca. His first wife, learning of his second marriage, made a charge of bigamy against him. He was arrested, made a confession, and while the Justice was making out a commitment, McDonald stepped one side and deliberately shot himself in the head. The ball passed through the top of his skull, but missed the brain. He then attempted to shoot himself again, but the pistol was pushed away from his head, and the shot proved harmless. He was then secured and lodged in jail.

## Foreign Notes.

—A recent calculation, relative to the European languages, shows that English is spoken by 39,000,000 of persons, German by 45,000,000, Spanish 55,000,000 and French by 45,000,000.

—The Assembly Committee on Liquidation of the late French Emperor's civil list will report in favor of allowing his heirs 800,000 francs the State retaining the museums at Pierrefonds and Fontainebleau.

—Prince Gortschakoff has declared that Russia will not make its recognition of Alfonso dependent on the confirmation of his accession by the Cortes, but will act in harmony with Germany and Austria.

—Rev. John H. Newman, an eminent Catholic divine, has written a pamphlet of ten chapters, addressed to the Duke of Norfolk, in reply to Gladstone's famous expostulation on Vatican decrees and civil allegiance.

—Miss Lipscombe has just been appointed by the English Registrar-General to the office of Registrar in one of the sub-districts of Worcester. This is the first time this office has been given to a woman in England.

—King Cakobau's war club has been sent as a present to Queen Victoria, through Sir Hercules Robinson. It is about 3 feet 6 inches in length, and made of dense, hard wood, stained black, and highly polished, resembling in shape a stout, well-rounded walking stick. Round the handle are a group of cocoa palms wrought in silver; fern leaves gradually entwined upward toward the head, with doves carrying olive leaves in their mouths, and the top or knob is surmounted by a crown, all of solid silver. It was formerly used as a mace by the self-constituted Government, from whose hands Fiji has now been wrested.

—Here is an evidence that people in Japan are just like people elsewhere. Take-nouchi (Simatsu), of Nishinokubo, fell in love with a beautiful girl named Hippari, whose code of morals was not a very severe one. After many clandestine meetings he obtained the consent of his uncle and guardian to take her for his wife. When he went to claim her she took him to Zojoji, Shiba, and, offering him a knife, asked him to kill her, saying it was impossible for them to be united, as she was not worthy of him. The sorrow-stricken youth thinking that, after such a disclosure, it were better to die, pierced twice the breast of his fiancée, who fell dead before him, and was about to repeat the operation upon himself when he heard footsteps approaching, whereupon he fled. When he had run some distance he sheathed the knife and abandoned his intention of taking his life. He was afterward taken and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment with hard labor for the murder of the young woman.

## Odds and Ends.

—The bus that crossed the Ocean—Columbus.

—The school-ma'am may not be a mind-reader, but she makes many a reader mind.

—Somebody says that King Koffee is a wreck. Somebody else says that all Kings are Rex.

—That farmer understood human nature who said: "If you want to keep your boy a home, don't bear too hard on the grindstone when he turns the crank."

—"I don't believe," said Spivens, "that I will hurt one of these chairs by backing my boots on it." "I know you won't," replied his wife, "as I shan't let you try it."

—A shoe-maker was taken up for bigamy and brought before the sitting magistrate. "Which wife," asked by-stander, "will he be obliged to take?" Brown, always ready at a joke, replied, "He is a cobbler, and of course must stick to his last."

—"Flavius," said I to a little ten-year-old ebony in Florida, "when you see a moe-

casin snake, what do you do?" "Kill him," said he, with flashing eyes. "When you see a rattlesnake, what do you do?" "Then I git," said Flavius, with solemnity.

—Four hundred Northwestern fruit-growers met in Chicago this week. Current accounts represent that they agreed to berry all rivalry, accept gages of mutual friendship, and conduct all their transactions with unimpeachable fairness. On this basis they may certainly plume themselves upon success.—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

—A young Japanese, while in the United States, expressed much surprise at seeing cranberries eaten at the table, and said that in the mountains of Japan they grow very large and beautiful, but are never cooked. Some old man occasionally goes up the mountain and picks a long basket full of them, which he brings on his shoulders down to the town. Here the boys gather about him, and for a small coin purchase the right to crowd their pockets with them. And what use do you think they make of this otherwise useless fruit? The boys blow the glowing berries through rattan tubes, as our boys blow beans through tin ones. That's what cranberries are used for in Japan, where they grow in great perfection.

—A certain professor was noted for having a certain set of illustrations, from which he could not well deviate without running the risk of a blunder. In illustrating the powerful effects of prussic acid, he was wont to inform the class that a drop placed on a dog's tongue was sufficient to kill him. On one occasion, when lecturing his class, he said, "Mr. Smith, addressing a young man whose chance of passing was very slender, 'what can you say of prussic acid? Is it powerful or otherwise?' " "It is rather powerful," said the student, dubiously. "Rather powerful!" said the professor, indignantly: "put a drop on your tongue, and it would kill a dog!" The shout of laughter which followed, and Smith's confusion, revealed to the professor that his illustration had served a double purpose.

## OUR NATIONAL FINANCES.

## Special Message of the President.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—The President sent to the Senate to-day the following message, accompanying his approval of the new Finance bill:

To the Senate of the United States:

Senate bill No. 1,004, to provide for the redemption of specie payments, is before me, and this day receives my signature and approval. I venture upon this unusual method of conveying the message to the house in which the measure originated, because of its great importance to the country at large, and in order to suggest further legislation which seems to me essential to make this law effectual. It is a subject of congratulation that the measure has been carried to this point, and that the redemption shall commence, and implies an obligation on the part of Congress, if in its power, to give such legislation as may prove necessary to redeem this promise. To this end, I respectfully call your attention to the following suggestions:

First.—The necessity for increased revenue to carry out the obligation of adding to the sinking fund annually one per cent. of the public debt, amounting now to about \$24,000,000 per annum; and to carry out the promises of this measure to redeem certain certificates \$20,000,000 of the present legal tenders, and without contingency, the actual currency now in circulation. How to increase the surplus revenue is for Congress to decide, but I will venture to suggest that the duty on tea and coffee might be restored without permanently enhancing the cost to consumers, and that a ten per cent. reduction of the tariff on articles specified in the law of June 6, 1872, be repealed. The supply of tea and coffee already on hand in the United States would in all probability be advanced in price by adopting this measure, but it is known that the adoption of free entry to those articles of necessity did not cheapen them, but merely added to the profits of the countries producing them or of middle men in those countries who have the exclusive trade in them.

Second.—The first section of the bill under consideration now provides that fractional currency shall be redeemed in silver coin as rapidly as practicable. There is no provision preventing the redemption of the currency. With gold at a premium of any thing over ten per cent. above currency in use, it is probable—almost certain—that silver will be bought up for exportation as fast as it was put out, until change would become so scarce as to make the premium on gold to the extent of the gold, sufficient high to make it no longer profitable to buy to export, thereby causing a direct loss to the community at large, and great embarrassment to trade. As the present law commands that the 1st of January, 1879, and as gold receipts by the Treasury are larger than gold payments, and currency receipts less than currency payments, thereby making monthly sales of gold necessary to redeem currency certificates, it seems to me that these difficulties might be remedied by authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem legal-tender notes whenever presented in sums not less than \$100, and multiples thereof, at a premium for gold of ten per cent. less interest at the rate of one and a half per cent. per annum from the 1st of January, 1879, to the date of putting this law into operation, and diminishing this premium at the same rate until final redemption, changing the rate of premium demanded from three to one, as the interest amounts to one-quarter of one per cent. I suggest this rate of interest because it would bring currency at par with gold at the date fixed by law for final redemption. I suggest ten per cent. as the demand premium on gold certificates, because I believe this rate would insure the retention of silver in the country for change. The provisions of the third section of the act will prevent combinations being made to exhaust the Treasury of coin. With such a law, it is probable that no gold would be called for not required by legitimate business purposes. When large amounts of coin should be drawn from the Treasury, correspondingly large amounts of currency would be withdrawn from circulation, thus causing sufficient stringency in the currency to stop the outflow. The advantages of currency of a fixed known value would also be reached. In my opinion, by the enactment of such a law, business and industries would revive, and the beginning of prosperity on a firm basis would be reached.

Other means of increasing the revenue than those suggested should probably be devised, and also other legislation. In fact, to carry out the first section of the act another might become a necessity. With the present facilities for coinage it would take a period probably beyond that fixed by law for final specie redemption to coin the silver necessary to transact the business of the country. There are now smelting furnaces for extracting silver and gold from ores brought from the mountainous territories in Chicago, St. Louis and Omaha—three in the former city—and as much of the change required will be wanted in the Mississippi Valley States, and as the metals to be coined come from west of those States, and, as I understand, charges for transportation of bullion from either of the cities named to the mint in Philadelphia or New York City amount to four dollars for each one thousand dollars' worth, with an equal expense for transportation back, it would seem a fair argument in favor of adopting one or more of the cities in the place of places for the establishment of new coining facilities.

I have ventured upon this subject with great diffidence, because it is so unusual to approve a measure as I most heartily do this even if no further legislation is attainable at this time, and to announce the fact by message. But I do so because I feel that it is a subject of such vital importance to the whole country that it should receive the attention of, and be discussed by, Congress and the people, through the press and in every way, to the end that the best and most satisfactory course may be reached, by executing what I deem the most beneficial legislation on a most vital question to the interests and prosperity of the nation.

J. S. GRANT.

## KATIE KING AGAIN.

Her Confession—How the Deception was Kept Up—The Way an Inquirer was Fooled.

[From "Confession" in Phila. Inquirer, Jan. 9.]

One day, while conversing about the probable success of seances, a white cloth was thrown over my head by the lady medium, accompanied by the remark, "You would make a good Katie King; I wish you would try it; go in the cabinet once; look out at the audience and speak; say something, just to see how it will take."

It is useless to repeat all the conversation that passed between us at various times on the subject. I was alone in a strange city, without a home, save the temporary one I then occupied. Had no money; my health was poor; to work at my usual occupation was out of the question; what ought I to do? They offered me \$2 a seance, and agreed that if Katie King would "take" they would hold three a day. I made up my mind to play the part for a short time, hoping that something better would turn up in my interest; in the meantime I would be earning my expenses and doing no one any harm.

All the necessary preparations were made for my debut, which was to take place on the evening of the 12th of May. A robe had been prepared of thin, white French muslin, reaching to the floor, with long flowing sleeves, and fastened around the waist with a belt, which, when I put it on, gave me a very graceful appearance. A white veil was then thrown loosely over my head. I had taken great pains, by the free use of magnolia balm, to give my face, arms and hands a white, corpse-like appearance. Altogether,

I LOOKED VERY MUCH LIKE A SPIRIT. The manner in which I entered and left the cabinet will be hereafter described. I entered the first time, after the dark seance was over, from the bed-room. Mr. Holmes was in the cabinet. After one or two false faces had been exhibited, I gently drew aside the curtain hanging over one of the apertures, showing the audience my face, and, in a very low whisper, scarcely audible, said: "Good evening, friends;" then drew back my head and drew down the curtain. The sensation in the audience was great.

Although somewhat excited, I was amused to hear the different remarks. "Did you hear it speak?" "I wonder who it is." "How beautiful it was." "I do wish it would appear again." The lady medium, who was on the outside of the cabinet among the audience, appeared very much pleased indeed at the reception I had received, and remarked that "she thought something unusual would occur, for the spirits had been drawing from her so hard all evening, to enable them to materialize, that she had scarce any vitality left." After the excitement had subsided a little and various requests had been made that I should appear again, I pulled the curtain to one side, showed my face at the aperture, and three or four voices at the same time said, "Who are you?—please tell us your name." I answered in a low whisper, as before,

"I AM KATIE KING, YOU STUPID." These cant phrases, "You stupid," "I shan't," "to be sure I am," etc., were used by Florence Cook (so I was informed by Mr. and Mrs. Holmes), when personating Katie King, and it was very important that I should use them, so that the people would think I was the same Katie who had appeared in London. The sensation among the audience was greater than at first, and often was the question asked, "Can this possibly be the Katie King who appeared through the mediumship of Florence Cook in London?" After a few moments I again showed my face, and said, "Of course it is, you stupid." The sensation was even greater than before. I again withdrew. The lady medium remarked that "spirits could not remain materialized but a few moments at a time; they had to retire into the cabinet to gather strength." On my appearance again at the aperture, Dr. Childs asked me "when I had been in London?" I replied, "I attended a seance to-day, you stupid," and again retired.

Mr. H. suggested that I had said enough for the first time, and I left the cabinet, passed through the bed-room, up-stairs to my own room, on the third floor. The audience soon after retired, congratulating each other "that the materialization of spirits was a fact beyond a doubt." Katie's first appearance was an entire success; the mediums were overjoyed, and the audience highly pleased. The news that a spirit had appeared and talked to the audience spread through the ranks of the faithful with immense rapidity. So great was the excitement that the parlor was filled every evening, and a large number were sent away for want of room to admit them.

The manner in which Katie approached the cabinet from her room, by passing through the upper hallway and coming down-stairs to the bed-room, with which the cabinet communicated, has been already detailed.

One evening a gentleman, who had often attended the seances, insisted upon being allowed to sit in the hall, at the head of the stairs on the second floor, and that both doors should remain open. After considerable talk on the subject, and the interference of third parties, the mediums consented to allow the gentleman to sit in the hall the next evening. During the dark seance, of course the doors must be kept closed, but after it was over, and before the light seance would commence, he should be allowed to examine the back room, but after that the door must be locked, for that room contained all the valuables belonging to the mediums.

The day before this was to take place another mattress, wider than the one in use, was purchased and placed upon the bed, so as to make the distance between the slats and the sheets quite thick. Katie was to enter the room in the early part of the evening, secrete herself in the back part of the bed, under the upper mattress and alongside of the lower one, the lower mattress being removed a little out of its ordinary place to the front of the bedstead, so as to make room for Katie to lie on the slats while the room was being examined, which, of course, would occupy but a few minutes. This arrangement was carried out by Katie to perfection; so completely was she stowed away, and so nicely were the bed clothes adjusted, that when the seance was over, and the gentleman and his friends entered the room and examined it they pronounced every thing right; that there was nothing there to excite suspicion.

After the room was vacated by the gentlemen who had examined it, and the door was locked, Katie rose from her hiding place, slipped on her robe and head dress, entered the cabinet in the usual way, which occupied not over eight or ten minutes, showed herself at one of the apertures, and in a jocular manner told the audience to ask the gentleman who was sitting in the hall if "he was not lonesome out there," which, of course, created quite a laugh, and Katie was loudly applauded. After her performance in the cabinet was over she retired, adjusted the loose boards, crept into her hiding place, and remained there until the door was opened, the ladies entered the room, took their bonnets, and the audience had all gone. It was a very warm night, and notwithstanding Katie suffered very much with the heat while secrete in the bed, so completely was her part performed and the audience deceived, that none of them ever suspected that any thing was wrong, but on the contrary, it was considered a very satisfactory test, Katie was triumphant, and the mediums were above reproach.

I soon learned how easy it was to deceive the people. After the first two or three nights my whole nature revolted at the idea of this gross deception. Night after night was this room filled with lawyers, doctors, professors, tradesmen, mechanics, and laborers, watching these manifestations, which, from the beginning to the end, were wickedly and maliciously false. The interest manifested by these people kept increasing, which only aggravated my sensitive nature. I was often sick at heart; I felt that I was guilty of a great crime. Night after night was my pillow wet with tears; the heart would overflow with grief. I appeared to be surrounded with a cloud of sorrow from which there was no escape. Here was my helpless little boy and frail old mother looking to me for bread. In my troubled dreams I seemed to see their eyes riveted on me, saying, "Our whole hope and dependence is on you." I was suffering physical as well as mental pain. Notwithstanding the many prayers and supplications I sent up to heaven for relief, no answer was received. There appeared to be no way but to continue in this wicked, sinful course. I feel now that it was good for me to be afflicted. The severe ordeal that I went through gave me a more clear and comprehensive view of right and wrong. No amount of money or other consideration could ever induce me again to participate in such an infamous transaction. Oh, poverty! poverty! how many victims lie prostrate at your feet.

## Mexican Earthquakes.

The latest Mexican journals contain some very interesting details of the recent earthquake shocks which have been felt in Northern and Western Mexico. At Guanajuato, Zimapan and Acambaro, says the *New York World*, the shocks were particularly violent, with a prevailing oscillation from east to west. At Guanajuato, on the 13th of November, at 2:55 a. m., two "sharp trepidations" were felt, followed immediately by a prolonged oscillation of the earth from east to west. On the next day, the 14th, the phenomenon manifested itself in the form of repeated rumbling noises heard underground at brief intervals. More than a hundred detonations of this sort were registered in the course of twenty-four hours. At Puebla, many hundred miles to the south-east of Guanajuato, at 2:25 a. m., or about half an hour after the "sharp trepidations" above mentioned were perceived at the latter place, a vigorous earthquake shock was felt which caused a good deal of mischief in the suburbs, and damaged in the city of Puebla itself the two solidly built Spanish churches of the Campana and of San Roque. The occurrence of these phenomena over so wide a region of Mexico has naturally excited the attention of scientific men of that country, who have maintained a creditable rank in the intellectual world. Senor Cantaparo, a distinguished mining engineer of the capital, has just published in the *Mundo Mexicano* a careful and interesting article on geographical seismology of Mexico, in which, while commenting upon these recent demonstrations of the subterranean forces, he gives his reasons for believing that the city of Guanajuato has actually sunk more than sixty-nine meters, or 200 feet in round numbers, in less than a century. It is of much more than local importance to Mexico that this curious statement should be accurately verified, and further evidence on the point will be looked for with no little interest. As we need hardly say, there is no lack of authentic instances of the subsidence within a comparatively brief historical period of considerable areas of the earth's surface. Greenland, and those parts of the Pacific and the Indian Oceans which abound in the curious atolls or circular coral-cup islands, first graphically described by Darwin, have been gradually sinking during the last century and a half, while, during the same period, the west coast of South America, the peninsula of Scandinavia, and some of the archipelagoes of the Pacific have been gradually rising. But these phenomena have been mainly observed on the shores of the greater oceans, and such a fact as Senor Cantaparo alleges of the great inland districts in which the famous mining city of Guanajuato is situated, would be a decidedly novel contribution to our means of forming a working theory of these great cosmical changes. It is honorable to the Mexican Government that it is devoting a great deal of practical attention now to the study of these questions. Senor Cantaparo, just named, has been recently appointed one of the members of a commission of four persons, charged with the duty of drawing up a thorough geological map of the State of Mexico, or, as it ought, we suppose, to be called, the Federal District.

A YOUNG MAN at New York, describing his father as being one of the most powerful men in the States, declared, as a proof of the fact, that his parent once knocked down a whole row of houses at one go. He omitted, however, to mention that the individual possessing such powers was an auctioneer.

TO REMOVE SILVER STAINS.—One of the best ways is to wash the spots with a concentrated solution of sulphate of chloride of zinc, and to rub the worst places with metallic zinc. Then rinse in pure water, and complete the washing with soap. Ink stains can be removed in the same way.